reported in 'The Hindu' of 27th June, 1997;

(b) whether Government are aware of Iowa State's attack on this School on the ground that it is not co-educational; and

(c) whether Government would draw the attention of US Government to the fact that freedom of choice implies freedom to study in single-sex or co-educational school?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's school, known as Maharishi School of the Age of Enlightenment, at Fairfield, Iowa, USA conducts classes on single gender basis, i.e. separate sections for boys and girls. The Iowa State Authorities had told the School to stop such single gender classes. The School did not stop the single gender classes, but took up the matter with the Iowa State Authorities but the School has been allowed to continue with the single gender classes for the time being.

(c) The issue of single gender classes has country-wide implications in the US and is an issue of national debate. The School comes under the purview of the concerned State and Federal Educational Authorities in the US, and has to operate under the relevant laws of that country.

सुरक्षा परिषद की स्थाई सदस्यता प्राप्त करने के लिए भावी कार्य योजना

959. **श्री रामगोपाल यादव:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सितम्बर-अक्तूबर, 1997 के अपने विदेश दौरे के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री ने सुरक्षा परिषद की स्थाई सदस्यता प्राप्त करने के लिए कोई विचार-विमर्श किया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो विचार विमर्श का क्या परिणाम निकला; और

(ग) देश के लिए सुरक्षा परिषद की स्थायी सदस्यता की प्राप्ति के लिए सरकार की क्या भावी कार्य योजना है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा): (क) से (ग) सयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा के पूर्ण सत्र के अपने संबोधन में प्रधानमंत्री ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद की स्थायी सदस्यता के लिए भारत की उम्मीदवारी दोहराई। संयुक्त राष्ट्र में बहस जारी है तथा उम्मीदवारों या मानदण्ड के विस्तार पर अभी तक कोई समझौता नहीं हुआ है। भारत की उम्मीदवारी का समर्थन प्राप्त करने के लिए सरकार विभिन्न सदस्य राष्ट्रों के संपर्क में है तथा इस मामले को जोरदार ढंग से आगे बढ़ाएगी।

Conversion of two-year MDS course into three year course

960. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dental Council of India has recommended conversion of two-year MDS course into three year course;

(b) if so, what is the basis therefor;

(c) whether Government have since accepted this recommendation; and

(d) if so, by when it would become operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWHDURY): (a) to (d) Based on the orders dated 25.9.97 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Dental Council of India has recommended for conversion of two year P.G. degree course into three year without any Housemanship. A Committee of experts in Directorate General of Health Services *inter alia* examined these proposals. However, a revised MDS course regulations has been received from the Dental Council of India on 25.11.97.

Per capita expenditure on Medicines in Bihar

961. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount spent by Central Government on medicines in the rural areas of Bihar in general and Jharkhand region in particular;